



LOUDOUN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING AREA AGENCY ON AGING



Draft Minutes of the Meeting, July 21st, 2011 Area Agency on Aging

Call to Order:

Chairperson Charlotte Nurge called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Members present were: Bob Charnoff, Ray Ehrenbeck, Jean Fenwick, Hal Lehman, Louis Luciano, Charlotte Nurge, Judy Randal Hines and Joy Wheeler. Absent: Theresa Ruddy. County staff present: Terri Howser and Dr. Lynn Reid.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:

Charlotte Nurge led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: June 16th, 2011. Ray motioned to approve the minutes and Hal Lehman seconded. The group approved the minutes as read. Hal commented the minutes are very comprehensive and he appreciates them.

Chairman's Report:

- **Public Input Initiative** – Charlotte reported that Diane Ryburn appeared before the Board of Supervisors at their July 13th meeting and the Board approved a one-year pilot program at senior centers for the public input initiative. Charlotte thanked Stevens Miller for his support.
- **NVAN Meeting** – Charlotte said the July 12th meeting went very well. Amy Ohms spoke on the subject of "Treatment Diaries". The NVAN legislative breakfast will be held on October 6th at the Hyatt in Fair Oaks. Bob Charnoff distributed a copy of the DRAFT NVAN 2012 State Legislative platform which outlines legislative and budget priorities.

AAA Director's Report: Dr. Lynn Reid reported the following:

- **AAA Vacancies** – Lynn reported that most of our vacancies have been filled or have been posted to fill. The data entry position hours were cut from 20 to 10 because funds were needed elsewhere. Two kitchen cooks and a dishwasher were hired at the Central Kitchen.
- **Tax Relief** – Lynn stated this will be covered under "New Business" later in the meeting. Recommendations will be put into an item on the subject of real property tax relief on behalf of the COA to be presented at the September BOS meeting.
- **Resignation** – Lynn reported that Kathryn VanCuren, Elder Resources Program Manager, resigned effective July 22nd. Ms. Fenwick commented on how outstanding Kathryn had been in her field from an outsider's perspective. The programs that Elder Resources offer in regard to outreach have been such an asset to the people in the community. The COA will miss her contributions.
- **Tools for Health Aging Fair** – Will be held on Friday, September 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 at Cascades Senior Center.
- **Car Fit** – Will be held on Tuesday, September 27th from 9:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Cascades Senior Center.
- **Fall Prevention/Risk Screening** – The Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Coalition (NVFPC) is partnering with INOVA Hospital and AAA to conduct Fall Prevention Risk screenings at Cascades Senior Center in September. INOVA will be taking the lead on publicity. Participants will have to pre-register in RecTrac. Up to 60 participants will be allowed.

AAA Director's Report (Cont.d):

- **Fall Prevention/Risk Screening (Cont.d)** - They will be assessed by physical therapists using a fall risk assessment tool as well as visiting a pharmacy and an Optometrist station. An exit interview will be conducted by a medical professional. We are hoping to present bi-monthly assessments at other senior centers.
- **Eastern Loudoun ADC** – Ray asked Lynn for an update on the center. Lynn reported everything is on schedule – expecting the center to open in January. Staff will be hired on a staggered basis. The center will be located near University Center Drive by Bles Park on Riverside Parkway. Kiran Parkih, from Capital Improvement is overseeing the project.
- Dr. Reid presented Debra Bressler's report. 578 registered AAA volunteers served a total of 54,131 volunteer service hours for a value of \$1,132,959.70 (Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service rate of \$22.03*) for FY11. Met performance measurement goal of 54,000 volunteer hours. 145 new volunteers for FY11 compared to 127 new volunteers in FY10. Gearing up for Medicare Part D program! Plan to recruit 10 more Medicare counselors for a total group of 20, solicited COA members to tell all the sharp, detail-oriented people they know about the program. Training will be in September for the October 15 to December 7, 2011 enrollment period.

Elder Resources Report: No report.

New Business:

- **Real Property Tax Relief Program** – Bob Charnoff distributed the COA's subcommittee's tax relief recommendations. There was one change the committee recommended – "Currently, there is a \$10,000 income exclusion for non-spousal relatives who reside in the same house as the elderly person(s). From an equitable standpoint they felt it would make sense to extend the \$10,000 exclusion to the income of the spouse; spousal income should not be treated worse for purposes of tax relief vis-a-vis the income of a non-spousal relative. They also believe the fiscal impact upon the County would be relatively minimal inasmuch as only a small number of additional elderly couples figure to come within the parameters of the liberalized income limits." Charlotte said a motion was needed on the floor to present this to the BOA in September. Hal made a motion to approve and Louis seconded. All approved. A handout with Judy Randall's comment on property tax was discussed. She felt her comment should accompany the Committee's report in September. The committee felt Judy's comment is a budget issue and not a part of the "Real Property Tax Relief". Judy made a motion to send as part of the committee's real property tax and Hal seconded but the group voted six to two not to send as an attachment with the sub-committee's recommendation.
- **August COA Meeting** – The group voted to cancel the August meeting and resume their next meeting on September 15th. Bob stated he will be out of town and will miss that meeting. Joy made a motion to approve cancelling the August meeting and Jean Fenwick seconded.

Old Business: None discussed.

County Service Agency Reports: No report.

COA Comments (3 minutes each):

Bob Charnoff – Bob reported that Amy Ohms was the speaker at the NVAN meeting and spoke on the Treatment Diaries. This is an on-line website where people can provide info on chronic illnesses. It provides complete anonymity. This website helps caregivers helping those with such illnesses. 90% of seniors have at least one chronic disease and 77% have two or more. The website address is www.treatmentdiaries.com. A legislative priorities list was distributed by Bob. Bob reported

COA Comments (3 minutes each) (Cont.d):

Bob Charnoff (Cont.d) - reimbursement rates for home-care workers in Northern Virginia is \$11.47 an hour. Medicaid rates had a drop of 10% to \$10.33 an hour.

Ray Ehrenbeck – Reported the sofas at the senior center have been reupholstered. There was an issue with cushions for seniors and the contractor resolved the problem. Three bids were acquired to refurbish the chairs in the cafeteria and those have gone to Procurement.

Jean Fenwick – Reported she gave a presentation to the AARP at the Rust Library on Saturday June 25th highlighting services and programs offered by the Area Agency on Aging. She also discussed examples of the types of advocacy the Commission on Aging provides on behalf of seniors to the Board of Supervisors, most recently the issue of the “Real Property Tax Relief Program” and the pilot for the Public Initiative Input” sessions to be offered at our senior centers. Jean also said the Friends of Carver paid for a picture of the Carver Center painted by one of the seniors at Carver to be hung in the lobby at Carver. The Friends of Carver also paid to have the shades at Carver refurbished. As an initiative to get members to read their newsletters, the Friends of Carver purchased (12) \$10 gift certificates to be given away to members who turned in the correct answer to the monthly trivia question located in the newsletter and if their name is drawn they win a \$10 gift certificate to Giant Food.

Judy Randal Hines – Judy and Bob recommended getting a speaker for a future COA meeting to discuss preserving social security. A motion was made to have a representative from the National Committee to preserve Medicare and Social Security and an opposing advocacy organization at the same meeting. Bob seconded the motion – Hal felt that the COA meetings are rushed with all other agenda items and should stay on the local business at hand. Ms. Fenwick commented she didn't feel the COA would concretely affect any change on this topic and this should be done as a part of another group. Motion was voted down.

Hal Lehman – Hal shared his sentiments about physicians no longer accepting Medicare for treating seniors. He expressed his concern that this may spread to specialists dropping Medicare patients as well. Judy reiterated that the Community Health Clinic wants Medicare beneficiaries.

Louis Luciano – No report.

Joy Wheeler – Reported the Senior Center had an alumni reception on Tuesday, July 12th for people that had graduated or had attended the Leesburg High School which is the site of the North Street Senior Center. There were approximately 94 people in attendance. Everyone had a great time and everyone is looking forward to touring the site. Joy said they have received 30 concierge vests which are apple green in color for the volunteers to wear at the new site to show guests/members around the new center once it is opened. She reported there is currently a shortage at the front desk which is the first time in the eight years since she has been a volunteer. New officers for the Leesburg Senior Center Advisory Board took office effective Friday, 7/1/11. The President is Bill Keller; he is 96 years old and had previously been the Secretary. The Vice President is from India and speaks (5) languages. The Secretary is Ed Valaer and the new Treasurer is Al Sowers. The move should take place toward the end of September or first part of October. Joy said there is a lot of excitement among the seniors about the move to the new location. Leesburg currently has 467 members.

Advisory Board Reports:

- Friends of Loudoun County Adult Day Centers, Inc.: Nothing significant to report to COA.
- Leesburg Senior Activity Center Advisory Board, Inc.: Joy Wheeler absent – Reported under COA member comments.
- Dulles South Senior Activity Center Site Council: Nothing significant to report to COA.
- Carver Center Advisory Board, Inc.: Nothing significant to report to COA.
- Friends of Carver Center, Inc.: Reported by Jean Fenwick under COA comments.
- Friends of the Senior Center at Cascades, Inc.: Nothing significant to report.
- Senior Center at Cascades Advisory Board: Nothing significant to report to COA.
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board – No report.

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Bob distributed a flyer that was distributed at the NVAN meeting by Erica Woods from Ian Kremer, Advocacy and Outreach Director, Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter about a forum to be held at George Mason University on August 10th. The session will provide a forum in which people impacted by the disease and related disorders will share their ideas with federal officials about prioritizing NAPA implementation to build an effective coordinated national strategy to conquer Alzheimers.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the Mickie Gordon Conference Room, 2nd floor at 215 Depot Court, Leesburg, VA.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Howser, Senior Secretary
Area Agency on Aging